

ABSTRACT

A data communications interface for a node of data processing network comprises a data transmission path, a transmission control path, a data reception path, and a reception control path. Transmission segmentation logic receives a data frame, comprising a transmission header and a transmission payload, from the node. The transmission segmentation logic supplies the transmission payload to the data transmission path and the transmission header to the transmission control path. A transmission processor in the transmission control path controls communication of data from the transmission payload to the network via the data transmission path in dependence on the transmission header. Reception segmentation logic receives a data packet, comprising a reception header and a reception payload, from the network. The reception segmentation logic supplies the reception payload to the data reception path and the reception header to the reception control path. A reception processor in the reception control path controls communication of data from the reception payload to the node via the data reception path in dependence on the reception header.